Sabbat Ritual Cards

Eight festivals of the Wheel of the Year, 2027

Print the next two pages on A4 card and cut along the dashed lines to make eight cards, one for each festival of the Wheel of the Year. Each card gives the 2027 date and time in UK clock time, a short, simple ritual and a seasonal reminder.

The dates of the solstices and equinoxes, and the astronomical midpoints of the four fire festivals (the moment the Sun is exactly halfway between a solstice and an equinox), were calculated with the Skyfield software and NASA JPL ephemeris data. Many people keep the fire festivals on their traditional dates instead; both are given.

These rituals are modern and personal, drawing on old British and Irish seasonal customs. Adapt them freely. Never leave a candle or fire unattended, and keep evergreens and their berries away from children and pets.

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Imbolc

The first stirrings of spring

1 February (eve 31 January). Astronomical midpoint: Thu 04 Feb 2027 01:46 GMT

1. At dusk, tidy one small corner of your home and set a bowl of water and a sprig of greenery there.
2. Light a candle for the returning light, and name one thing you want to grow this year.
3. In the old Irish custom, leave a strip of cloth outside overnight for Brigid to bless; keep it as a charm for comfort.
4. Write your intention on a slip of paper and keep it until the equinox.

Look for snowdrops, hazel catkins and lengthening evenings.

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Ostara

The spring equinox

Equinox: Sat 20 Mar 2027 20:24 GMT

1. Hard-boil and decorate a few eggs with pencil, ink or onion-skin dye.
2. Write two lists: what feels in balance in your life, and what doesn't.
3. Plant a seed for each thing you want to bring into balance, and label it.
4. Share the eggs with someone, and tend your seeds through the spring.

Day and night are nearly equal; from now on the days are longer than the nights.

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Beltane

Fire and flowers

1 May (eve 30 April). Astronomical midpoint: Wed 05 May 2027 18:25 BST

1. Before breakfast on May morning, go out and wash your face in the dew, as people did for beauty and luck.
2. Tie a ribbon to a tree or shrub in your garden with a wish for the summer.
3. Gather a few flowers from your own garden for the table.
4. Light a candle, or a fire in a fire pit where it is safe and allowed, and give thanks for the growing year.

The dawn chorus is at its fullest. Listen once this week.

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Midsummer

The summer solstice

Solstice: Mon 21 Jun 2027 15:10 BST

1. Watch the sunset on the longest day, and note where the Sun goes down on your horizon.
2. Make a small bundle of garden herbs, such as rosemary, lavender and sage, tied with thread.
3. Hang it to dry by the door, as Midsummer herbs were hung for protection.
4. Sit outside in the long twilight and write what this half of the year has given you.

From tomorrow the days shorten. Enjoy the light while it lasts.

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Lammas

The first harvest

1 August. Astronomical midpoint: Sat 07 Aug 2027 18:26 BST

1. Bake or buy a loaf of bread, and give thanks for the first harvest.
2. Break off a piece and leave it outside for the birds.
3. Write down three things you have "harvested" this year: skills, friendships, results.
4. Share the rest of the loaf with people you love.

Blackberries are ripening, and the swifts are leaving.

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Mabon

The autumn equinox

Equinox: Thu 23 Sep 2027 07:01 BST

1. Set out apples, nuts or late flowers on a plate as a thanksgiving.
2. Cut an apple crosswise to find the five-pointed star of seeds inside.
3. Write what you are grateful for this year, and what you are ready to let go.
4. Eat the apple, and plant or compost the seeds.

From now on the nights are longer than the days.

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Samhain

Remembering

31 October (Hallowe'en). Astronomical midpoint: Sun 07 Nov 2027 15:38 GMT

1. Set out photographs or names of those you remember, with a candle beside them.
2. Say their names aloud, and tell a story about each of them.
3. Lay a place, or leave a little food, as a welcome, in the spirit of the old soul-cake customs.
4. Put out the candle and write down one thing you'll carry on for them.

The clocks go back this morning. Check bonfire piles for hedgehogs before lighting them.

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Yule

The winter solstice

Solstice: Wed 22 Dec 2027 02:42 GMT

1. Bring in evergreens such as holly and ivy, and keep them out of reach of children and pets.
2. On the longest night, sit in the dark for a few minutes, then light a candle.
3. Name what you want to carry into the new year.
4. The next morning, watch for the sunrise and welcome the returning Sun.

Holly, ivy, mistletoe and yew berries are poisonous. Never leave a candle burning unattended.

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